

U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVIST



VOLUME 52

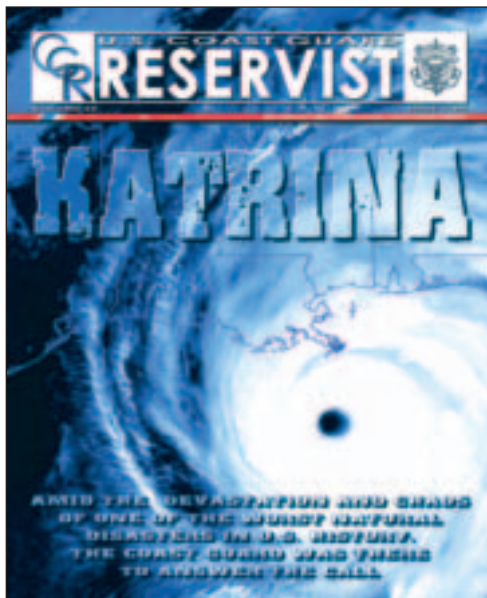
ISSUE 7-05

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE

KATRINA

**AMID THE DEVASTATION AND CHAOS
OF ONE OF THE WORST NATURAL
DISASTERS IN U.S. HISTORY,
THE COAST GUARD WAS THERE
TO ANSWER THE CALL**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



What We've Done... What You Can Do!

Last fall, I thought we had seen it all when four hurricanes hit Florida during the 2004 hurricane season ("No Mas!" Issue 8-04). That is, until this year, when Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast Aug. 29, followed by Rita taking center stage in September.

We should all be proud of the Coast Guard's response to Katrina and Rita. I know I am. At times, it seemed Coast Guard rescues were the only bright spots in the news during those first dark days after Katrina.

USCG images I will never forget from this disaster include:

- Coast Guard air crews lifting victims to safety.
- Our small boats out and about rescuing people.
- Coast Guard Chief of Staff VADM Thad Allen being appointed by the DHS Secretary to head the Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina.

The Coast Guard rescued over 33,000 people during Katrina operations. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard Reserve was authorized to call up to 1600 reservists to respond to both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The last numbers I saw, nearly 700 reservists had actually been called up, so it was a big operation for us as well.

Many of our Coast Guard families in the region lost everything. If you'd like to help them financially, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) has established an account for the specific purpose of helping them get back on their feet. Contributions marked "Katrina" will be earmarked and tracked to ensure they are used for that purpose. Victims of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be served by CGMA.

Please see the CGMA Web site at:

www.cgmahq.org,

or call them at

1-800-881-2462

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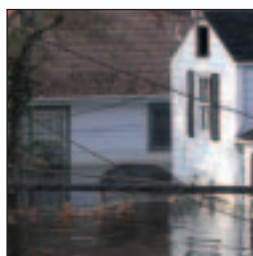
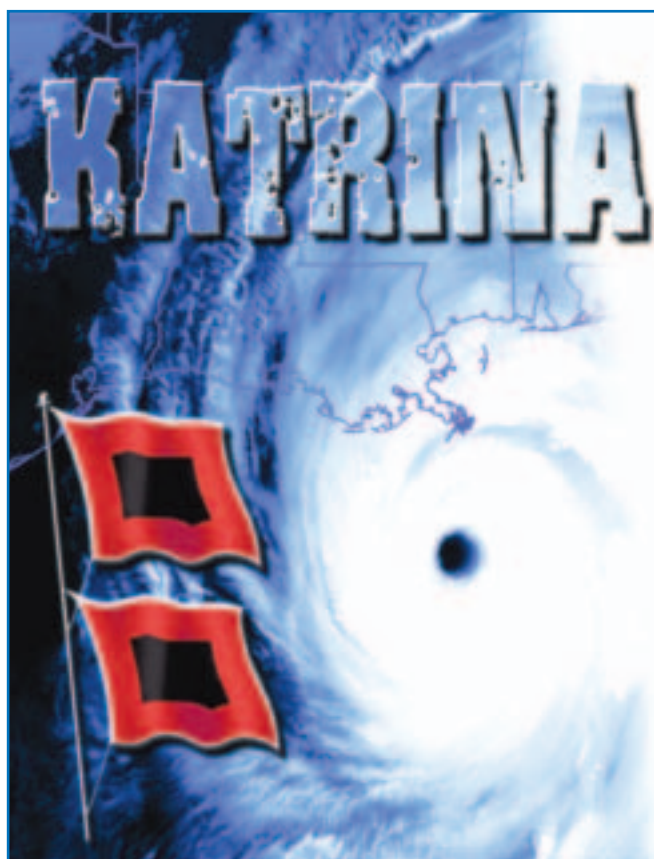
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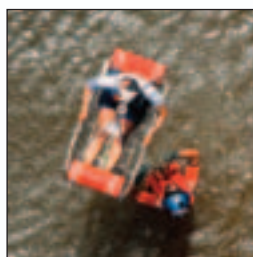
THE RESERVIST MAGAZINE

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The Coast Guard responds to one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.



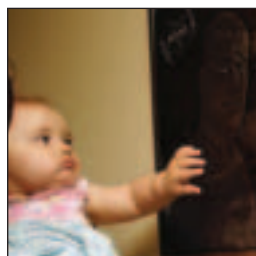
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Happily Ever After

The first "Coast Guard Couple" revisits Coast Guard Headquarters.

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MOPIC Memories

Reading the story on MOPIC (Issue 5-05) brought back memories of 1956 when I acted for one day as the Coast Guard liaison with Hollywood.

I was a LTJG at the time and had recently returned from 13 months as the CO of Coast Guard LORAN Station Palau, and was serving at D11's Search and Rescue Division in Long Beach, Calif. At that time, the Coast Guard had a permanent liaison attached to the movie industry named CDR Cannom, USCGR.

Well, CDR Cannom was either sick or on leave, and the task fell to my boss, the Chief of SAR, CDR Mike Davidson. He was busy with aviation duties, so in his absence I assumed the rest of his duties — one of which was to take over for CDR Cannom at Hollywood.

At the time, Warner Brothers was filming the picture *Onionhead*, a delightful story of a Coast Guard cook during World War II, starring Andy Griffith. A contract had to be signed enabling the studio to have the use of a CG buoy tender — with a catch. The ship had to be painted in wartime colors (grey), and then repainted peacetime spar and black by the studio. The CG couldn't charge for use of the ship, but could require them to repaint the ship to CG specs. Warner Brothers had figured on a simple one-coat paint job, but the CG had different plans — down to bare metal with two coats of primer, followed by two coats of spar and black.

So it fell to me to take a new contract to Warner Brothers for approval and signing. There was much consternation among the underlings when they read the contract about the repainting required, so they pushed me upstairs to one of the big bosses. He sat behind about an acre of desk with a "yes man" on either side, and after much discussion, he said to me, "Well, Mr. Hayes, it seems that either we agree to this or we don't make the picture." I replied, "I think that's about the size of it sir." So he signed and *Onionhead* was made, and a fine movie it was!

What made the picture exceptional was it focused on the enlisted men and not the officers — as in that horrible film *The Fighting Coast Guard* starring Brian Donlevy, in which the 20mm anti-aircraft cannons were being manned by LCDRs! If you never saw that movie, don't bother!

While at Warner Brothers, I did get to meet the star, Andy Griffith. He was very friendly, and we had a nice chat about the film. Thus ended my only experience as liaison to the film industry.

—CDR Lewis S. Hayes, USCGR(Ret.)
Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Hurricane Aftermath

Hurricanes have terrorized Atlantic and Gulf Coast residents for many years. While criticism of President Bush's "sluggish" response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina may indeed be appropriate — it's also fair to criticize every president before him — for failing to set-up a proper Disaster Aftermath Response Plan — especially after the Hurricane Andrew disaster in Florida back in 1992.

In 1992, I wrote to President George H.W. Bush, suggesting one means of dealing with aftermath response. My



plan involves the use of pre-loaded U.S. Merchant Marine cargo ships laid-up in the U.S. Reserve Fleet — which can be manned by U.S. Maritime Service Reserve (and perhaps U.S. Coast Guard Reserve) crews, essentially made-up of youngsters like I was during my days as a 16-year-old USMS sailor aboard the USMS Training Ship *American Sailor*, stationed in the Gulf of Mexico area. I lived aboard that beautiful ship for some four months. In fact, we were ordered to respond to the Texas City explosion in 1947 — but were not brought into port because they feared a secondary explosion. A similar letter was sent to President Clinton after his election, but neither one acknowledged receipt of my letter.

The United States has had pre-loaded USMM cargo ships pre-positioned in the Indian Ocean — not far from the Mideast

and Asian hot spots — for many, many years. These USMM-manned ships were (and still are) loaded with MREs, medical and other war supplies. So, why can't the same be done with USMSR/USCGR-manned USMM (Reserve Force) ships in disaster prone areas of the Continental United States with military DUKWs stationed aboard for ship-to-shore amphibious operation? This plan could have been utilized in the aftermaths of Hurricane Floyd here in North Carolina and the NYC World Trade Center disaster too.

—LT Dan Kozak, USCGR(Ret.)
Greenville, N.C.

Letter Made Coastie's Day!

I am the administrative assistant at the Coast Guard Recruiting Office in Louisville, Ky. We get the Coast Guard monthly magazine as well as *The Reservist* and I read through them for any good information. The letter in *The Reservist* (Issue 5-05, "Coast Guard is Fifth Armed Service") responding to the Marianas Variety editorial section really made my day. We here at the recruiting office had gotten some e-mails earlier in the year about the Army guy who said the Coast Guard wasn't part of the military. Of course, then we all huffed and puffed and didn't know what we could do about it. So, we eventually moved on to other recruiting things.

Now you have printed this response from LTJG Peck, I have decided to make it into an insert for our information packages. I am also going to display some copies of the article in our office for general information to walk-ins. We get so many people that think the Coast Guard has only been around since the 1970s, and we get parents that were in the military who have the same feelings as the Army guy that started all this. I think this article will be a very useful tool for educating the public on the history of the Coast Guard during wartime. Thank you for printing this article and I thank LTJG Greg Peck for helping to set the record straight.

—Jennifer Davis
USCG RO Louisville, Ky.

With WWII 60th Anniversary Ending... Thank you USCG!

As we conclude the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of World War II, on behalf of the DoD World War

II Committee and particularly on behalf of our World War II veterans, I would like to thank Coast Guard personnel nationwide for your generous donation of time to support our efforts to honor and thank our World War II veterans for preserving the freedom and peace we enjoy today. The World War II Committee co-hosted regional ceremonies in Tampa, San Antonio, San Diego, Boston, Chicago, and Vancouver. It also hosted two national ceremonies in Washington, DC. At every event location, an impressive number of Coast Guard volunteers helped to organize the event details and assisted our veterans as escorts, greeters, and interviewers. An outstanding number of interviews for the Veterans History Project were also recorded by the Auxiliary in Tampa, and by the Coast Guard Public Affairs Detachment in Vancouver. Our committee members stated that everywhere they looked at an event, they saw a Coastie serving.

— LCDR Jack Dunphy, USCGR
Washington, D.C.

Work-Life Branch Demonstrates Tradition of Compassion

Please extend my heartfelt thanks to LT Michael Alert and ENS Adam Davenport of the Work-Life Branch, Headquarters Support Command for representing the U.S. Coast Guard at my husband Julius' funeral June 16, 2005. I am very glad they could attend and greatly appreciate the special efforts of all the members of the Work-Life Branch in making the proper arrangements to recognize and honor my husband's service as a Coast Guard officer during WWII. They were especially thoughtful and kind to be so helpful and responsive to our needs on such short notice.

The compassionate support and valuable service provided by the Work-Life Branch to Coast Guard families at their time of loss is in keeping with highest tradition of the Coast Guard. We deeply appreciate their exemplary devotion to duty. Semper Paratus!

— Mary Stanges
Alexandria, Va.

Corrections

- The photo of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and RADM Kevin Eldridge in Issue 6-05, pages 8-9, was taken by PA3 Mary Larkin T. Jones, D11 PADET San Diego, not PA3 Nathan Henise.
- The USAA photo in Issue 6-05, page 16, stated incorrectly that USAA stood for United States Automobile Association. It should be United Services Automobile Association.
- The photo at the bottom of page 19 in Issue 6-05 was PS "A" Class 02/05, not Class 01/05. Class 01-05's photo ran in Issue 5-05 on page 22. We regret the error and have republished the correct cutline and photo below.

PS "A" Class 02/05

Port Security Specialist "A" School Class 02/05 graduated July 29 at Training Center Yorktown, Va. Back, left to right: CWO4 Donald F. Allen, School Chief; Mr. Mike Travis, Instructor; Mr. Steve Childs, Instructor; MST1 Candi Davis, Class Advisor & Instructor; GMC James Clarin, Asst. School Chief; Mr. Greg Smith, Instructor; Mr. Mike Young, Instructor (rear); Mr. Sam Solivan, Instructor; Mr. Dan Montgomery, Instructor.

Row one, right to left: PS3 Kristina Compelube, SNPS Clay Elliott, SNPS Kia Clarke, Class Yeoman; SNPS Landon Smith. Row two: PS3 Matthew Tobie, Class MAA; SNPS Jerry Igelsrud, SNPS Philip Conaty, SNPS Bennett Stusse, Honor Graduate; SNPS Eldra Whitney, SNPS Jesus Gonzalez, PS3 Anthony DiCarlo, Class Leader; SNPS James King,



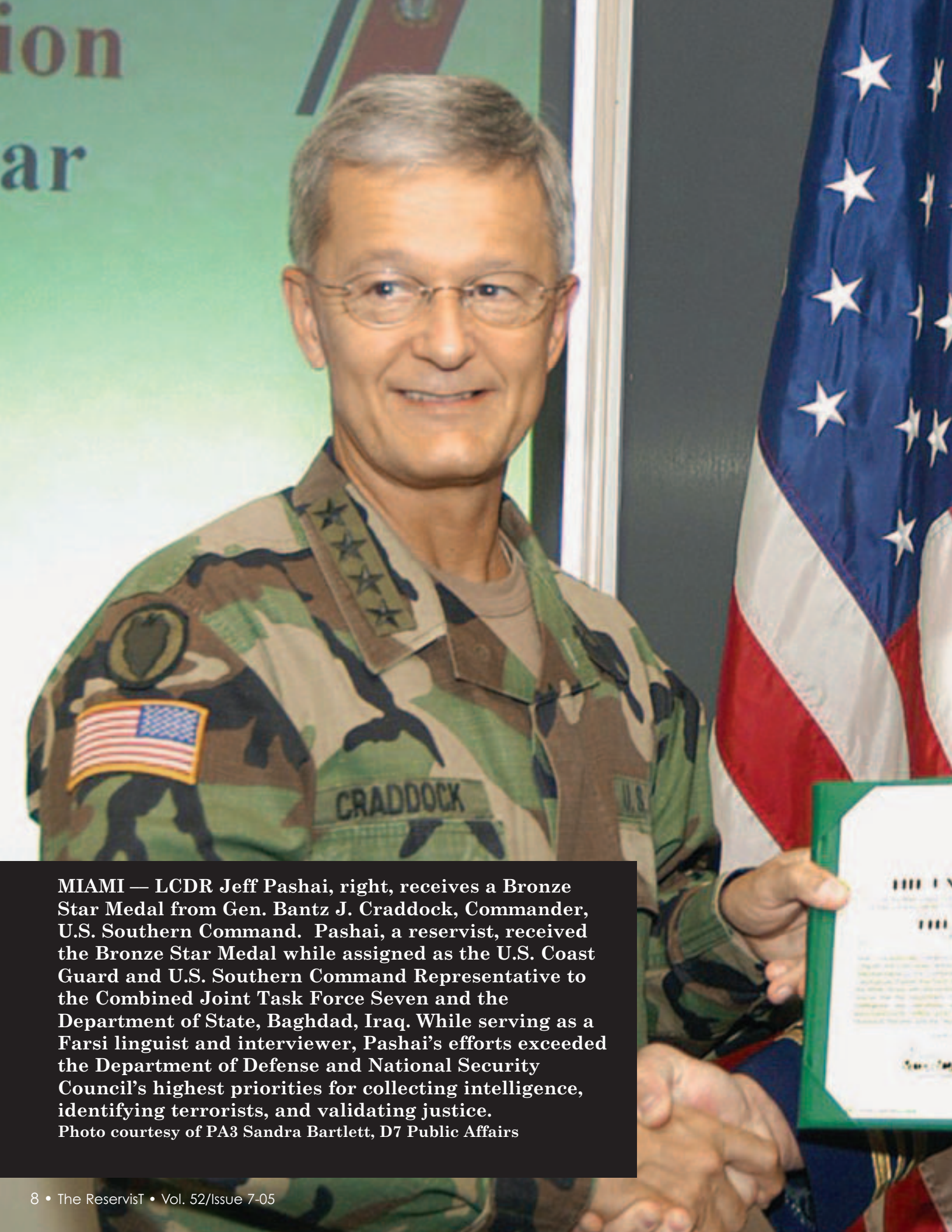
Photo courtesy CWO4 Donald F. Allen, PS "A" School Chief

SNPS Jefferson Huggins, PS3 John Hall. Row three: PS3 Adam Diesi, SNPS Daniel Wroblewski (with guideon), SNPS Joshua Bubinas, SNPS Kevin Williams, SNPS John Hopson, SNPS David Rathbone, SNPS Kenneth Goldberg, PS3 Kevin Devlin, PS3 Derek Gawrilow, PS3 Jason Switzer, BM1 Mark Hill, Instructor.



GULFPORT, Miss. (Sept. 6, 2005) — Chief Timothy L. Shouse of MSST 91108 looks over what remains of Coast Guard Station Gulfport in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Inset Photo: Station Gulfport before the storm. USCG photo by LTJG Earl Lingerfelt, MSST 91108. Inset photo courtesy USCG Station Gulfport.





MIAMI — LCDR Jeff Pashai, right, receives a Bronze Star Medal from Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, Commander, U.S. Southern Command. Pashai, a reservist, received the Bronze Star Medal while assigned as the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Southern Command Representative to the Combined Joint Task Force Seven and the Department of State, Baghdad, Iraq. While serving as a Farsi linguist and interviewer, Pashai's efforts exceeded the Department of Defense and National Security Council's highest priorities for collecting intelligence, identifying terrorists, and validating justice.
Photo courtesy of PA3 Sandra Bartlett, D7 Public Affairs



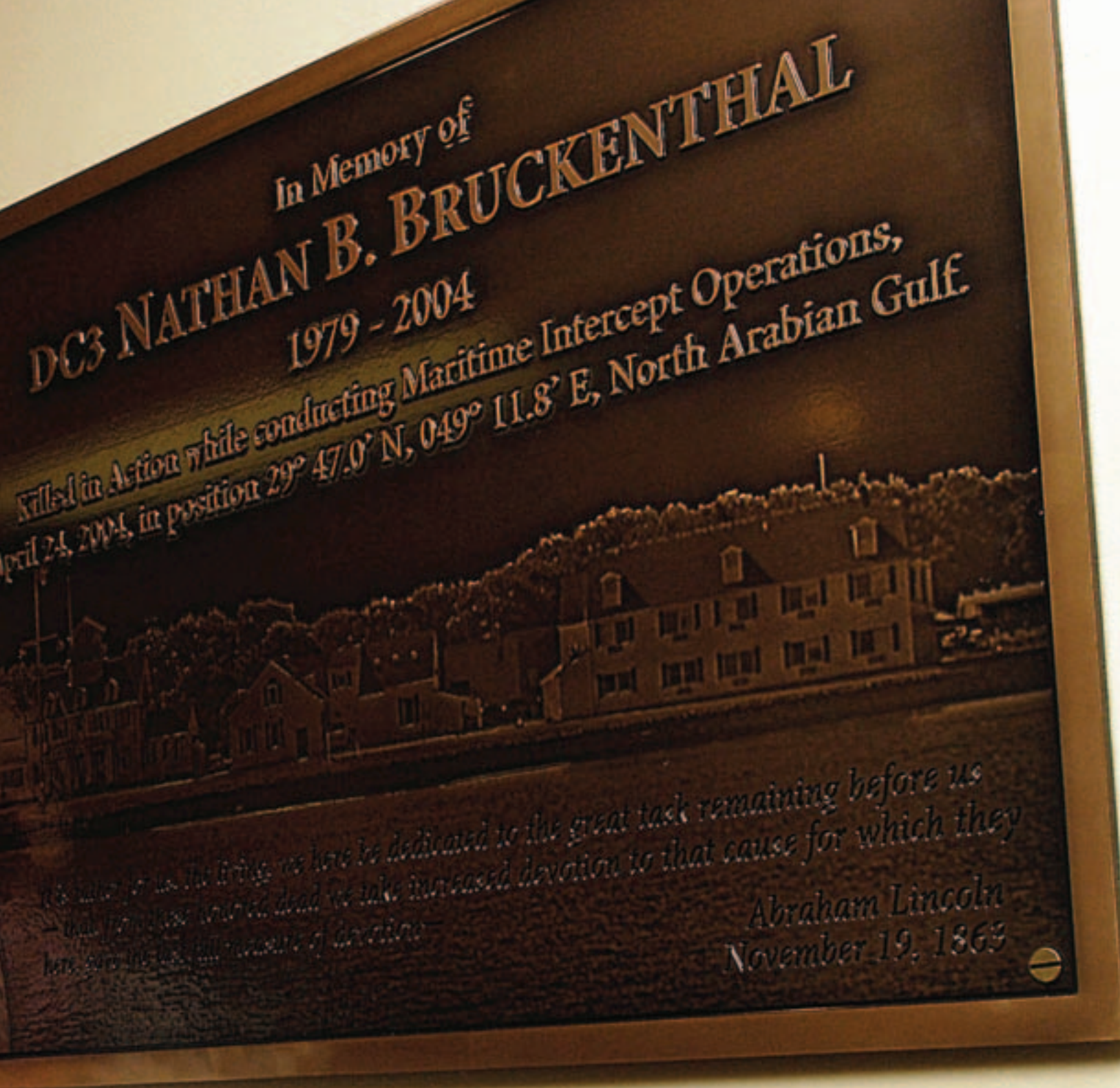




ALAMEDA, Calif. (Aug. 20, 2005) — The Coast Guard continued its tradition of excellence when Port Security Unit 312 was officially commissioned into service. See story on page 15. Photo by MK3 David W. Wiltgen.

MONTAUK, N.Y. (Oct. 3, 2005) — Harper Natalie Bruckenthal, born Nov. 19, 2004, touches the face of her father DC3 Nathan B. Bruckenthal inside Bruckenthal Hall at Coast Guard Station Montauk, N.Y. The building is named after Bruckenthal, who was killed in action April 24, 2004 while defending the Iraqi Kwahr Al Amaya Oil Terminal against a series of waterborne attacks. He is the first Coast Guardsman killed in action since the Vietnam War.
USCG photo by PAC Tom Sperduto





A quote from the Gettysburg Address, engraved at the bottom of the plaque reads:

*“It is rather for us the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us
— that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they
here gave the last full measure of devotion.”*

*— Abraham Lincoln
Nov. 19, 1863*



FLAG VOICE 268


EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF OUR RESERVE

Hurricane Katrina rescue and recovery operations provide yet another example of how much we rely on our reservists. One group of vital, yet often overlooked, partners in our extended use of reservists are their civilian employers. The increased mobilization of reservists since Sept. 11, 2001, significantly impacts full-time employers and home-town communities. I encourage all units with reservists to reach out to local employers to express appreciation for their contribution to this invaluable partnership and to promote how important reservists are to the Coast Guard. Informed employers are more likely to support their Reserve employees through policies and practices that accommodate participation in our demanding operations tempo.

The National Committee of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is the DoD agency responsible for fostering communications and understanding between the Reserve Components and their civilian employers. ESGR offers a number of services, including assistance in local outreach. A variety of informational materials are available at the ESGR website (www.esgr.org) or by calling 1-800-336-4590 and asking for an employer outreach specialist. The Coast Guard's POC at ESGR is CAPT Ron White, USCGR (Ronald.White@osd.mil). ESGR's cadre of volunteers in all states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, will also help units develop a dialogue with employers.

One excellent example of an effective employer support program is that of the FY04 Sparks Award winner, MSO Houston-Galveston. The unit hosted a one-day event and participated in two ESGR Bosslifts to express thanks to the regional companies that employ Coast Guard men and women. By showcasing unit missions, particularly the key role of reservists, they enhanced public understanding of our vast responsibilities.

An informed, regular contact program takes effort, but is well worth the good will and open communications it generates. Employers need to know that their strong support of our reservists is essential to our success and to the nation's maritime safety and security.



Kenneth T. Venuto
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources



"I encourage all units with reservists to reach out to local employers to express appreciation for their contribution to this invaluable partnership and to promote how important reservists are to the Coast Guard."

USCG Commissions Eighth Port Security Unit

Story by
ENS Jesse Rangle, PSU 312

COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, Calif. — The Coast Guard continued its tradition of excellence when Port Security Unit 312 was officially commissioned into service Aug. 20, 2005. VADM Harvey Johnson, Commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area, presided as senior official at the ceremony while CDR Donald G. Huenefeld assumed command of PSU 312.

As family, friends, and dignitaries proudly watched, a diverse and specialized force of 140 reserve and six active duty members accepted the call to duty as the Coast Guard's newest port security unit. Dedicated to performing a broad range of port security and harbor defense missions, PSU 312 is available to augment the Coast Guard or Department of Defense forces during major maritime events or law enforcement operations focused primarily in ports, harbors, riverine environments, and coastal regions.

The commissioning ceremony formally highlighted the unit's recent, intensive, "in house" training courses. VADM Johnson and CDR Huenefeld issued 13 "Level II" coxswain pins to unit members. The pinning ceremony marked an historic accomplishment within the port security community, as the new unit produced more qualified coxswains at the onset of being commissioned than any other PSU to date.

"This confirms that our initial membership has taken ownership in the unit," said CDR Huenefeld. "They have started out on the right foot, being adequately equipped, properly trained, and completely prepared."

PSUs have served honorably while deployed to Iraq, Egypt, Korea, Spain, Cuba and Haiti in support of U.S. operations under DoD theater commanders. They have also performed maritime law enforcement activities in New



PSU 312 commissioning pennant is unveiled by the most junior ranking member, SN Darin Dana, to commanding officer of PSU 312, CDR Donald Huenefeld.

York, Boston, Los Angeles/Long Beach and Puget Sound harbors immediately following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and most recently, with humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

PSUs are capable of maintaining maritime security at all levels anywhere in the world without supplemental support for up to 30 days and are fully operational within 96 hours of notification of a chemical, biological or radiological threat or incident.

This is the Coast Guard's eighth port security unit. The other seven PSUs are based in Cape Cod, Mass. (PSU 301), Fort Eustis, Va. (PSU 305), St. Petersburg, Fla. (PSU 307), Gulfport, Miss. (PSU 308), Port Clinton, Ohio (PSU 309), San Pedro, Calif. (PSU 311), and Tacoma, Wash. (PSU 313).

Munoz Named Williams Award Winner

PORT ARTHUR, Texas — LT Orlando T. Munoz is the 2004 winner of the National Naval Officers Association's (NNOA) CAPT Edward R. Williams Coast Guard Reserve Award for Excellence.

Munoz, a firefighter in civilian life, is a member of the Commandant's Diversity Advisory Council (DAC), serving on the DAC's workforce subcommittee. As a DAC member, Munoz has been an advocate for all members of the USCG workforce. In particular, he has participated in development of a diversity plan for the Coast Guard Reserve (currently in draft). In addition, he has been active in his community, working with inner-city youths in Houston, helping them raise standardized test scores and providing them information about career opportunities, including those available in the Coast Guard.

The award was presented at the NNOA National Conference during August in New Orleans. See ALCOAST 355/05.





Coast Guard Day in Kuwait...

Members of COMNCWRON33 (Commander Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron) and PATFORSWA (Patrol Forces S.W. Asia) had a great time getting together for a CG Day picnic at Kuwait Naval Base Aug. 4.

Tribute in Light

At sundown, the "Tribute in Light" returned for one night Sept. 11th, in memory of those lost and as a symbol of the spirit of the community. The "Tribute in Light" was located at a new site this year at West and Morris Streets in Lower Manhattan.



Photo by PAC Marguerite DeMartino, PADET NY USCG



Photo courtesy Rick Benoit

Cycling for a Cause

Team Training Center Cape May, N.J., represented the United States Coast Guard during the Delaware Valley Multiple Sclerosis Society MS-150 Bike Tour Sept. 24-25. From left to right: CDR Michael Shomin, Rick Benoit, SN Kristy Rasbeary, DC2 Michael Leyman, Kristin DeRogates, and team mascot Dixie. Together, the team raised nearly \$2,000 riding 78.6 miles from Cherry Hill, N.J. to Ocean City, N.J.

Team Coast Guard participates in 2005 Boy Scout National Jamboree

Story by
William W. Garry, BC-APG,
National Press Corps

BOWLING GREEN, Va. —

Imagine, if you will, a city with a population of over 40,000 springing up overnight in the rolling hillsides of northeastern Virginia. In a few short hours, this city, a stone's throw from the birthplaces of Washington and Lee, became Virginia's sixth largest by population. That was the size and scope of the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree held at U.S. Army Fort A.P. Hill July 25-Aug. 3, 2005.

Most of the population was composed of Boy Scouts and their leaders, but many organizations, civilian and military, assisted in the planning, organization and staffing of the event. The Jamboree site became a city for nine days, with its own logistics, medical facilities, food catering services, chaplains, newspapers and communication services.

Representatives of Team Coast Guard pitched in whenever and wherever they were needed. The Team Coast Guard element consisted of some 200 members and included active duty, reservists, auxiliaries, civilian employees and Coast Guard Academy cadets. The leading echelon arrived at Fort A.P. Hill July 23, to erect displays, prepare merit badge stations, and to build action stations to give the scouts and their leaders a "hands on" experience. Auxiliaries Bill Reisa and Mark Walker worked together to organize auxiliaries and to facilitate their contributions.

"This is my seventh Jamboree," said auxiliary Doug Yackley, a retired Coast Guard Senior Chief and Sea Scout. Braving the 90-degree temperature and extreme humidity, Yackley assisted Boy Scouts who were signing up for merit badge counseling. Many members of Team Coast Guard sported Eagle Scout patches earned prior to their military service.

Coast Guard members participated as part of the Joint Task Force (JTF) composed of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and U.S. Public Health Service. Team Coast Guard provided three basic services, all within walking distance of each other: a merit badge station, a public education exhibit, and an action station.

The merit badge station specialized in nautical skills such as canoeing, knot tying and sailing. A short distance away was an exhibit section which featured areas dedicated to public education, Deepwater systems, the Coast Guard Academy, the "Coastie" robot boat, a 25-foot rescue boat, the "America's Waterways Watch" program, Sea Partners and more. Because



Members of Team Coast Guard interact with Boy Scouts at the 2005 Boy Scout Jamboree.

of its high visibility, the rescue boat became a favorite meeting place. "Meet us back at the orange boat," was commonly overheard. The boat was also a favorite backdrop for souvenir photos.

Next door were action stations that included lots of hands-on activities. In the life ring throw, the most accurate throw earned a scout a Coast Guard t-shirt as a prize. With Coast Guard tutelage and supervision, scouts were able to fire laser rifles at a computerized target screen, navigate radio controlled vessels, and participate in a hands-on ecology demonstration. Scouts and their leaders all had fun donning the special goggles that simulated the effects of alcohol on their reflex systems.

Security was impressive, with Military Police at every intersection, and Virginia State Police outside the main gate. With all this protection, the worst enemy was not terrorism, but Mother Nature in the form of exceptionally hot and humid weather.

Every four years, since 1981, Boy Scouts have been coming to Fort A. P. Hill for their Jamboree. The Boy Scouts of America organization spent approximately \$20 million over the past 24 years for improvements such as road paving and plumbing upgrades. It costs about \$7.3 million to transport supplies and personnel from all services to Fort A. P. Hill. The military benefits by practicing logistics, communications and security.

The Department of Defense and Coast Guard puts so much effort into the Jamboree because scouting builds leaders and leaders are what the military wants in their ranks.

A highlight of the Jamboree was the visit by President George W. Bush on Sunday, July 31, 2005. The President praised the Scouts for their patriotism and loyalty to their oath. "Vice President Cheney was an Eagle Scout," said Bush.

For all Joint Task Force Team Coast Guard personnel, the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree will always be a memorable experience.





Impeccable Timing

DESTIN, Fla. (Aug. 24, 2005) — A 47-foot boat from Coast Guard Station Destin performs a basket hoist with an HH-65B Dolphin aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans. Coast Guard boatcrews are required to perform hoisting drills in order to prepare for search and rescue missions.

USCG photo by PA2 NyxoLyno Cangemi



REBI Class 10/05

Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination Class Romeo 10/05 graduated July 22, 2005 at Training Center Cape May, N.J., and is shown in front of CGC Vigorous. Front row, kneeling, left to right: SN Todd Perrins, PS3 Justin Spence, SN Kevin Sorenson, YN3 Dylan Carioscia, PS3 Henry Plante, SK3 Angela Wagner, YN3 Antonio Morrison, PS3 Chad Goetzman. Middle row, 1 to r: PS3 Dennerlein Gill, ET2 Michael Herring, MK3 Faust Capobianco, Jr., SN Jason Quinn, YN2 Brian Danzinger, YN3 Joy McLaughlin, MST3 Kelly Simmons, SN Luis Martir, PS3 Karen Castllano. Back row, 1 to r: YN2 Eugene Baker, PS3 Joshua Boyd, SN Andrew Testamark, SN Kenneth Lann, PS3 Jeffery Martin, BM3 Peter Duggan, PS3 Eric Moss, SN Leon Owens, PS3 Eric Layfield. Not pictured is PS3 Ryan Johnson. Company commanders (at right wearing "Smokey Bear" hats), 1 to r: MKCS Wayne Self, YN1 Lara Negrón, AMT1 Guy Rush.



Photo by Mr. Scott Prince



Photo by PA1 Sarah Foster-Snell, USCG

ROCI Class 01-05

Congratulations to Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (ROCI) Class 01-05 who graduated May 28, 2005, after three weeks training at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Staff cadre, left to right: LTJG Matthew Weber, LT Jeffrey Jackson, LT Rob McCaskey, LT Tammy Michelli, LCDR Patti Seeman, CDR William Kelly, LT Brent Yezefski, CWO John O'Hara, ETC Nicholas Mynuk, LT Eric Wescott. Front row, 1 to r: ENS Diana Guyton, ENS Daphne Foster, ENS Kelly Garot, ENS Paul Fukuda, ENS Karen Hewes, ENS Angie Markovich, ENS Kendall Gill, ENS Victoria Taylor, ENS Doug Dresnek, LTJG W. Justin Cotter, ENS Timothy Joachim, ENS Mark Schadler, ENS Edward Connery, ENS Carter Fenstermacher, ENS Isabela Dunklin, ENS Yanira Tirado, ENS Jennifer Piechoski, ENS

Michael Priest, ENS Beth Meyerand, LT Lee Rimbach, LTJG Ed Swanson. Middle row, 1 to r: ENS Eric Meaders, LTJG Steve Dullack, ENS Jana Croft, ENS Paul Teague, ENS Semyon Aynbinder, ENS Joe Vermette, ENS Zack Hughes, ENS Tom Condit, ENS Pat Zeitler, ENS Andrew Taylor, ENS Charlie Epperson, ENS Jarod Ross, ENS David Twomey, ENS Scott Bleicken, ENS Webb Moore, ENS Phillip Houlton, ENS Derek Perry, ENS Zane Fralick. Back row, 1 to r: ENS Michael Shuster, ENS Eric Marfull, ENS Gabe Zambrano, ENS Michael DeBree, ENS Jonathan Cavett, ENS Keith Meverden, ENS Garrett Hawk, LTJG Charles Dudek, ENS Saeed Abu-Bakar, ENS Brian Jones, ENS Michael Gulla, ENS Danny Dean, ENS David Roberts, ENS Don Godiksen, ENS Jennifer Fortuny, ENS Matt Long, ENS John Elkins, ENS Michael Sturdy.

ROCI Class 02-05

Congratulations to Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (ROCI) Class 02-05 who graduated Sept. 2, 2005, after three weeks training at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Front row, staff cadre: LT Eric Casper, LT Daniel McSweeney, LTJG Michael Friend, LTJG Erin Christensen, CDR William Kelly, LT Tammy Michelli, LT Rachel Lewis, LT Steven Kee, LTJG Paul Sanger. Second row, 1 to r: ENS Christopher Villar, ENS Christine Wettlaufer-Adcock, ENS Tudorel Caliga, ENS Mario Fernandez, ENS Lee Northcutt, ENS Deborah Amacher, ENS Katherine Allison, ENS Raquel Salter, ENS Charlayne Holliday, ENS Faith Driver. Third row, 1 to r: ENS Charles Nassar, ENS Robert McDonald, ENS Kari Crawford, ENS Michael Starnes, ENS Jonathan Tortora, ENS Frederick Merritt, ENS Patrick O'Donnell, ENS Melisa Davis, ENS Nathan Curry, ENS Carolinn Shay, ENS Stephanie Pye. Fourth row, 1 to r: ENS Joshua Curtis, ENS Vaughn Hazen, ENS Paul Turner, Jr., ENS Jesus Villarreal, ENS Jason Lombard, ENS Ernest Payton, ENS Robert Donovan, ENS Kristin Leverich, ENS Ann Freeman, ENS Jose Maldonado, ENS Eric Driggs. Back row, 1 to r: ENS Brian Godkin, ENS Daniel McMahon, ENS Jacob Katz, ENS Corey Gause, ENS Noah Maignan, ENS Corey Taylor, ENS David Major, ENS Leon Turner, ENS Matthew Waller, ENS Joshua Hauanio, ENS Peter Dawidowicz.



Photo by Sunshine Photographic

UNNATURAL DISASTER

By PA2 Judy Silverstein, USCGR

Faced with widespread chaos and devastation in the wake of one of the most destructive hurricanes in U.S. history, the Coast Guard responds en masse – by land, sea and air.



NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 30, 2005) — Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Shawn Beaty, 29, of Long Island, N.Y., looks for survivors in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Beaty is a member of an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter rescue crew sent from Clearwater, Fla., to assist in search and rescue efforts.

USCG photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class NyxoLyno Cangemi

NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 29, 2005) — Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Huerta hoists two children into a Coast Guard helicopter. Others watch from below as the children are among many New Orleans citizens to be rescued from their rooftops due to flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina. Huerta, 34, of Tampa, Fla., is an aviation maintenance technician stationed at Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala.

USCG photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Niemi





Long associated with Cajun music, sultry blues, spicy food and beguiling Southern history, New Orleans has a way of creeping into the collective conscience of visitors. Its eastern neighbors, Gulfport, Miss. and Mobile, Ala. are also known for their unique blend of southern hospitality, a quieter pace, and the excitement of waterside casinos that elevated the area's prosperity.

But as one of the busiest hurricane seasons on record reached its peak, Hurricane Katrina put a screeching halt to those memories Aug. 29.

As Katrina screamed up the Gulf with winds in excess of 160 miles per hour, she left a path of destruction almost unprecedented in this country. As residents trickled back into their drowned Gulf cities, parishes and townships to pick through the ruins in hopes a trinket would resurface, it was the putrid stench some said was most unsettling.

"It was the combination of decaying bodies and sewage," said BM1 Evan Trefcer of Port Security Unit 307 from St. Petersburg, Fla. "It was awful."

Perhaps even more shocking was the complete and utter destruction of whole neighborhoods. In New Orleans alone, an estimated 22 million tons of debris, an amount 15 times more than was generated by the collapse of the World Trade Center, awaits removal, say federal officials.

"It's so different from watching the news," said Trefcer, a trace of disbelief tinged with relief at being back home, discernible in his voice. "You can't imagine how big and complete the destruction is until you see it first hand."

House by house, Coast Guard Reservists worked side-by-side with active duty counterparts to check houses to ensure no one was still stranded. It was a grim but necessary task, a sad counterpoint to the heroism of helicopter crews that had plucked survivors from rooftops.

There to document the relief effort, PA2 Bobby Nash from Mayport, Fla. describes scenes where the water reached the 12-foot mark in St. Bernard Parish.

"I don't think anyone can prepare themselves for something like this," said Nash. "It was like a movie. The military was everywhere, thousands upon thousands of people were stacked in a warehouse for safety, and there was debris everywhere."

Images of tangled power lines and trucks suspended from trees are a testament to his recollections. Like some crazy artist's rendering, cars and boats

ended up in places too unusual to comprehend.

As the brown muddy water rose to roofline level, Nash recalls snaking his way through downed power lines and endless high water. Some of the homes bore spray-painted messages left by search-and-rescue crews. The markings delineated the end of something almost too difficult to comprehend. Dates, times, number of bodies found, pets rescued, these large scrawlings were a grim reminder of the unleashed power of natural forces.

For Trefcer, home for less than a year after a long stint in the Middle East, being assigned to a crew guarding the *USS Iwo Jima*, was gratifying. On his fourth deployment since 9/11, Trefcer said helping other Americans in the aftermath of Katrina held great meaning. There were 700 Coasties stationed in the Gulf region who lost their homes. Trefcer said some of the New Orleans crews were working in the one uniform they had left.

"They were working — some without a change of clothes or a shower, but here they were thanking us for helping," said Trefcer.

Yet despite some of the chaotic, dangerous and often surreal things Nash, Trefcer and dozens of deployed Coasties witnessed, there were unexpected pockets of humanity. For Nash, it was a simple gesture from a couple who stopped to zip an open pouch on his backpack.

"All they had were the clothes on their backs, and here they were concerned about my pack," said Nash. "Even though there were things going on that seemed inhuman, there were people who had lost everything who were gracious and caring."


MCPO Ann Tubbs, a reservist stationed at Headquarters, deployed Sept. 7, and headed to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Ocean Springs, Miss. Describing the Mississippi coastal area, Tubbs said it's like "nothing you've seen in this country."

"It looks like this place was bombed," said Tubbs. "You can be driving down a road and see what used to be a K-Mart here, a Waffle House there, and then there will be one house that managed to survive. There are boats a half-mile inland. It's just mind-boggling."

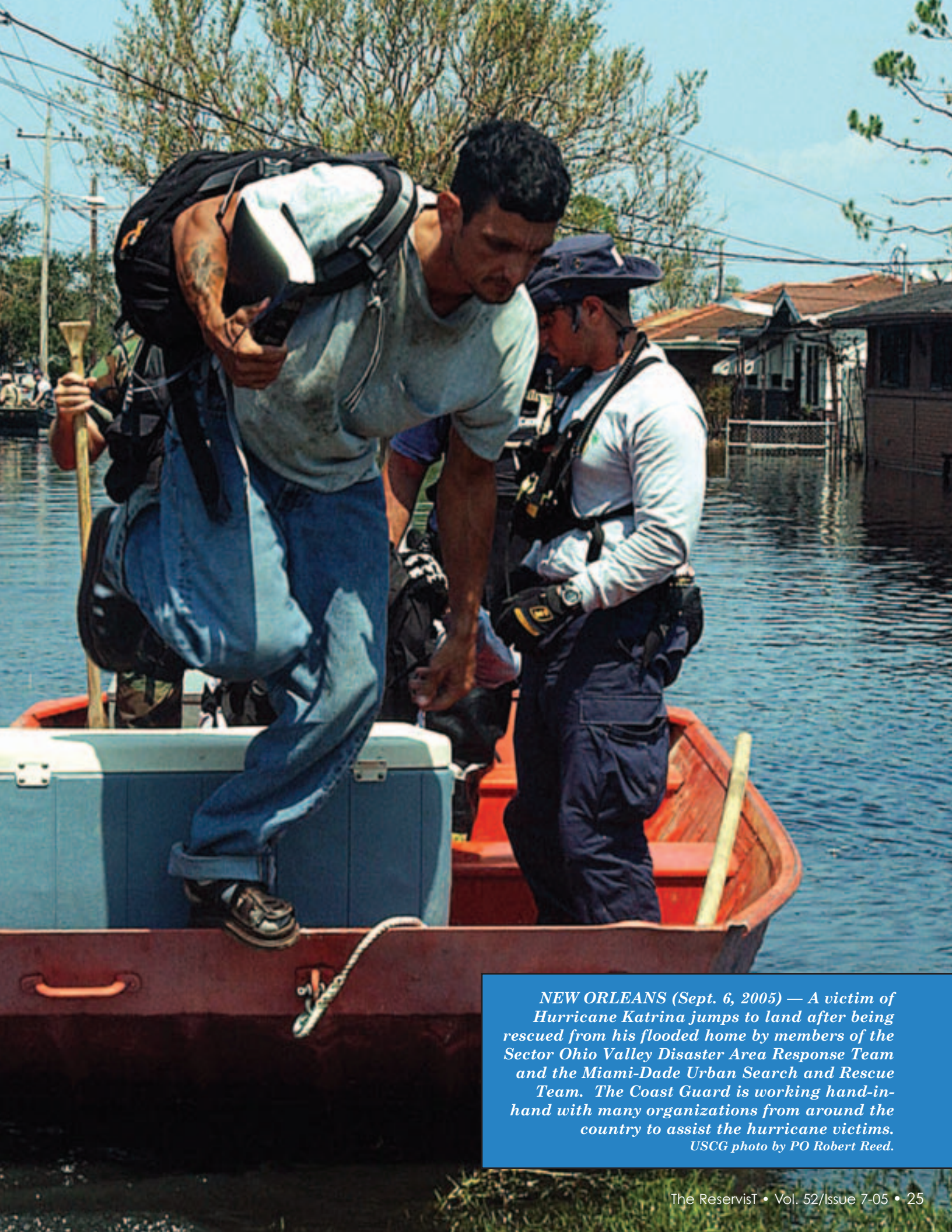
Working from dawn until dusk at the Ocean Springs DRC, Tubbs said she lost all track of time. She worked there along with MCPO Brett Ayer, while some other Coast Guard volunteers worked at a DRC in Alexandria, La.

"We were set up in an old K-Mart and had all kinds of federal and state agencies working there assisting people," said Tubbs. "We had FEMA, USDA, emergency child care, counseling, the Red Cross, Mississippi state agencies, Customs and Border protection, other DHS agencies, you name it."

Even with all the assistance rendered, Tubbs says she wonders how these people will come back.

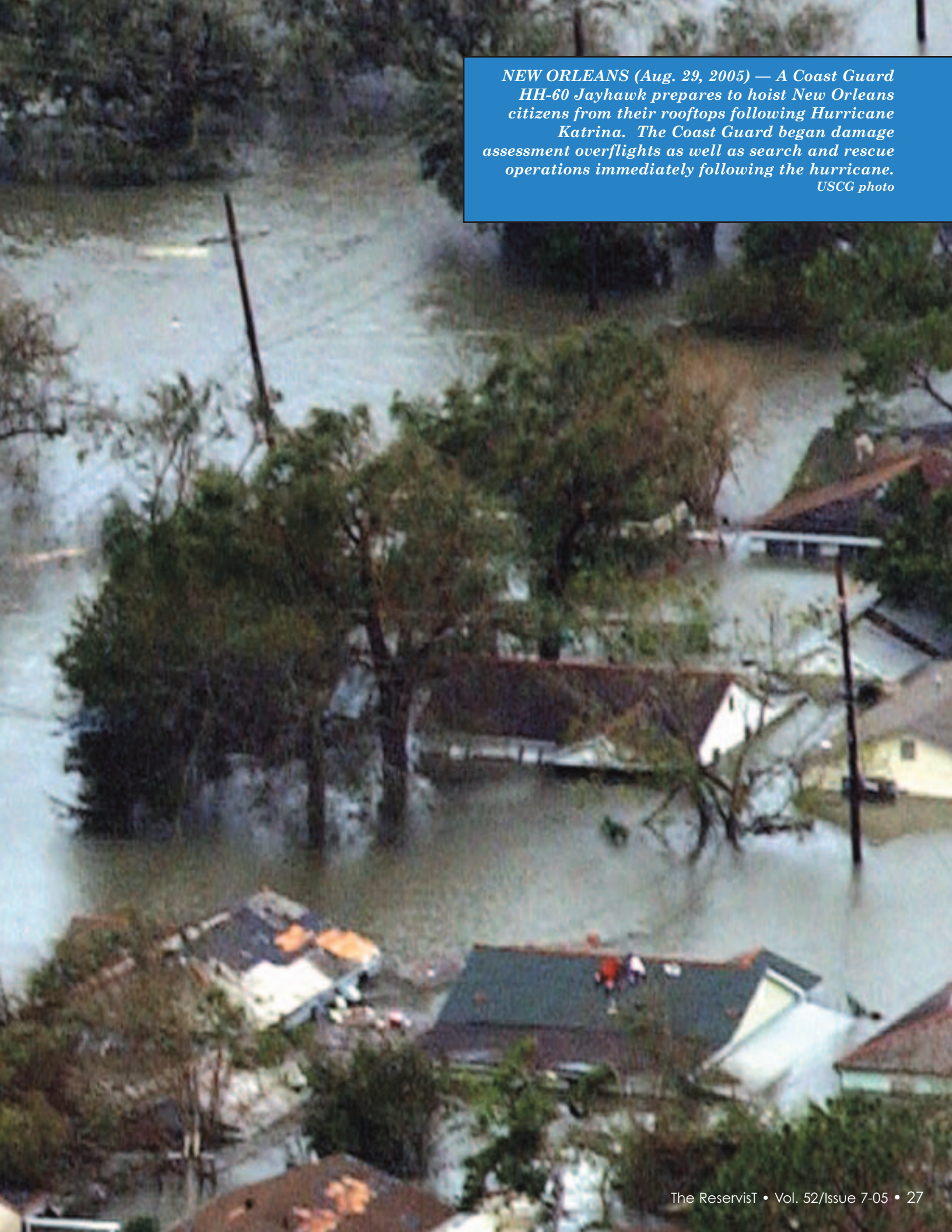
"These people lost so much, and the destruction down here is beyond words," said Tubbs. "You just have to hope people are resilient." 





NEW ORLEANS (Sept. 6, 2005) — A victim of Hurricane Katrina jumps to land after being rescued from his flooded home by members of the Sector Ohio Valley Disaster Area Response Team and the Miami-Dade Urban Search and Rescue Team. The Coast Guard is working hand-in-hand with many organizations from around the country to assist the hurricane victims. USCG photo by PO Robert Reed.



An aerial photograph showing a flooded residential area in New Orleans. The water is murky and covers most of the ground. Several houses are visible, some with roofs partially submerged. A large tree stands in the water. In the foreground, a house with a dark roof has a few people on it. Another house to the left has a damaged roof with orange debris. A utility pole is visible in the middle ground.

NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 29, 2005) — A Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk prepares to hoist New Orleans citizens from their rooftops following Hurricane Katrina. The Coast Guard began damage assessment overflights as well as search and rescue operations immediately following the hurricane.
USCG photo



HOUSTON (Sept. 25, 2005) — Two Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk crews take off early Sunday morning after Hurricane Rita made landfall. The crews searched for people to be rescued in the affected areas and provided needed supplies to other Coast Guard units.

USCG photo by PA2 Andrew Kendrick



Twisted Sisters

A DECKPLATE VIEW OF HURRICANES KATRINA & RITA

STORY BY
LCDR MICHAEL FERULLO, USCGR

Ed's note: LCDR Michael Ferullo, USCGR, is assigned to D1(ole) Intelligence Section and is currently serving at Sector Long Island Sound. A police officer in Weston, Conn., he deployed with the Coast Guard from Sept. 4-27. Here is his first-person account.

Having arrived home recently from participating in the response efforts to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, I would like to share my deckplate view of a small part of the Coast Guard's response to the worst natural disaster in our history. I do so in hopes of recognizing those who voluntarily answered the call solely for the purpose of helping our shipmates and our nation.

Rising to the challenge, Coast Guard assets and a combination of Team Coast Guard personnel began pouring into the 8th District immediately after Hurricane Katrina struck, leaving in her wake devastation and destruction not seen in recent history.

I arrived at Sector Mobile Sept. 4 and spent five days there as one of the planning section chiefs working with the Strike Team and the Incident Management Assist Team (IMAT). Realizing the

enormity of the situation looming in New Orleans, 18 of us were redeployed to Sector NOLA and assigned to Zephyr Field, home of the spring training camp for the New Orleans Saints. Arriving at Zephyr, we were met by LCDR Brad Wallace, USCGR, who was the operational commander of what was to become a 167-member Coast Guard unit with almost 50 flood relief punt boats and a complete sector model organizational chart. I was assigned as his deputy.

The command staff was thrust into an OPTEMPO consisting of extremely long days and nights where we worked closely with FEMA's Incident Support Team (IST) and the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) task forces to plan the next operational period. Our unit was affectionately dubbed Coast Guard Hurricane Task Force One.



Zephyr Field, home of the New Orleans Saints, and home to Coast Guard Hurricane Task Force One.



USCG photo

A neighborhood near Lake Pontchartrain, looking back toward downtown New Orleans, shows the extensive damage to the city.



Photo by Jay Mitchell

The final resting spot for a utility truck caught in the path of Hurricane Katrina. Scenes like this are not uncommon throughout the Gulf Coast, and show just how extensive the devastation is and how long the subsequent clean-up effort is going to take.

A flood relief punt boat is a 16-foot aluminum flat bottom boat commonly used throughout the Mississippi River region. With severe flooding throughout New Orleans, these were the only assets capable of assisting the multiple US&R task forces charged with conducting searches of every residence and structure throughout New Orleans. While the US&R teams do have their own boats, they are mostly inflatables and were quickly punctured and ruined during operations in this urban environment.

Trudging through the “toxic gravy” of untold hazards caused by the raw sewage, oil and chemical spills, and in natural hazards that included everything from 110-degree days to alligators, the Coast Guard put forth tremendous effort every day conducting SAR with US&R task forces. Other Coasties representing PSUs, MSSTs and TACLETs provided boat crews and force protection. Having them present was important as hearing gunfire was commonplace in some areas. In fact, during FEMA briefings, every US&R task force present requested Coast Guard personnel be assigned to them. For days on end, these combined forces departed early in the morning and returned late in the afternoon to tell tales of the rescues and other events of the day — some of which had happy endings, many of which did not. As the

mission at Zephyr Field came to an end and a number of our crew demobilized, the Sept. 20 SITREP told the tale — 6,563 persons rescued, 1,848 sheltered in place.

I became the operational commander when LCDR Wallace demobilized, and 55 other Coasties and I took CG Hurricane Task Force One on the road. USCGC took on a new meaning and became “U.S. Coast Guard Campers,” thanks to the work of CEU Miami, which provided RVs and campers for us at Zephyr Field, and allowed us to take them with us when we left. From Alexandria to Houston, Liberty to Port Arthur, Lake Charles to Cameron, we continually moved in order to be where we were needed most the next day.

Thankfully, Rita did not come ashore with the strength of Katrina, but there was still plenty of work to do. Having been in the field for the better part of a month, a visit by President Bush and VADM Allen was a huge morale boost for our crews and re-energized our bodies and minds. Whether moving our boats on trailers or in Marine Corps CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters, we continued our mission with the US&R task forces until we were secured. We then demobilized, said our good-byes, and went our separate ways.

While bonds are normally formed during periods of TDY and mobilization, the bond we developed during


our response to Katrina and Rita made us a family. I am also thankful for the Coast Guard units and personnel who were there and had departed prior to our arrival, and to those who are still there. The efforts they put forth and the professionalism and dedication they displayed on a daily basis truly reflected our core values. For those shipmates and their families affected by these hurricanes, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you on a daily basis.

In closing, an e-mail from Andrew Hopkinson to his brother seems appropriate. Hopkinson is a police officer from Mamaroneck, N.Y. He was one of the many local law enforcement officers who responded to the call and who, somehow, has managed to put into words the thoughts of many of us who were there.

Hopkinson wrote:

"I am sitting on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River. It is 11:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14, and New Orleans looks like a war zone. I never thought I would ever see anything like this in America in my lifetime. I have been through some of the worst flooded areas and have seen 600-ton locomotives knocked over. I have witnessed the wrath of 140-mph winds that snapped every tree and utility

pole. I was in a parish where all 27,000 homes will be razed and the owners will never be able to return to them because it is so toxic. I have seen lines of displaced people blocks long waiting to get shots to prevent third world diseases. I have seen every dead animal that once lived here, domestic and wild. There is so much horror and devastation as far as the eye can see.

Shining through the aftermath of Katrina's path is a ray of hope so bright it burns away the thoughts of death and destruction. That ray of hope does not shine down from the sky, but up from the piles of debris and putrid waters. It shines from the hearts and eyes of the people who came to help and those who chose to ride out the most devastating national disaster ever to hit our country. It shines from the children who wait to be inoculated from a disease this horror may spawn. It comes from the elderly as you help them out of an ambulance, it comes from the medical teams who vaccinate and treat the sick and wounded. New Orleans will recover, and those who loot, rape and murder will never quell the hopes and dreams of mankind. God helps those who help themselves. God bless America!" 



Members of a Louisville, Ky., based Coast Guard Disaster Area Response Team approach a house in a flooded area near Lake Pontchartrain. Coast Guard crews searched for survivors of Hurricane Katrina who may be trapped in their homes.

USCG photo by L.F. Chambers.



GULFPORT, Miss. (Sept. 14, 2005) — Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Hornyak, left, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Rabinovich of PSU 309, distribute water, ice and MREs (meals ready to eat).

USCG photo by PA1 Danielle DeMarino.



A HELPING HAND

PSU 309 DEPLOYS FOR KATRINA OPS IN MISSISSIPPI

BY CDR SCOTT MCKINLEY, USCGR

GULFPORT, Miss. — The Coast Guard was already busy responding to the disaster in the wake of Hurricane Katrina when the call came late in the afternoon on Sept. 1. The phone call was to CDR Scott McKinley, CO of PSU 309 based out of Port Clinton, Ohio. PSU 309 had been preparing for an ADT training period in mid-September. The type of duty they were expecting and the type they got ended up being very different.


On Sept. 2, the official recall to Title 14 orders went out. During the next 24 hours, 120 reservists from six Midwestern states responded to PSU 309's home base for duty. The unit learned it would be going to Gulfport, Miss., an area that was almost directly in the path of the devastating storm. It also became apparent that Station Gulfport had been totally destroyed with only the roof and steel frames remaining after the storm.

Almost 100 short tons of unit gear, boats and weapons were loaded onto five semi-trailers, five government vehicles and three charter buses for a convoy to Gulfport that took almost 20 hours. Upon arrival, the unit immediately set up a self-contained tent city for berthing on the U.S. Navy Seabee's training base three miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

The effects of the hurricane were overwhelming. The smell of raw sewage permeated the air. Trees were torn from the ground, rooftops were shredded, power lines were down everywhere and there was no electricity. The 95-degree daytime temperatures added misery to the refugees and relief workers alike who were pouring into the area. The 20-foot storm surge had completely devastated everything within a quarter mile of the water. Semi trailers were wrapped around trees, refrigerators were floating in the rivers, vessels of all kinds were scattered in fields, tree lines, and sunk in the back inland bays and rivers.

PSU 309 personnel were assigned to work for Sector Mobile and took up the job of relieving Station Gulfport personnel so they could attend to their families and begin the work of rebuilding their station. PSU 309 security personnel patrolled the storm damaged Gulfport pier while rebuilding efforts began on the new station. Many other units such as MSST 91108 from Kings Bay, Ga., ANT Charleston and the CGCs DECISIVE, POMPAÑO and RAZORBILL participated in relief operations. PSU 308, homeported in Gulfport, Miss., though scattered and still in the process of tracking down their crew, assisted in the effort, setting up much needed logistics.

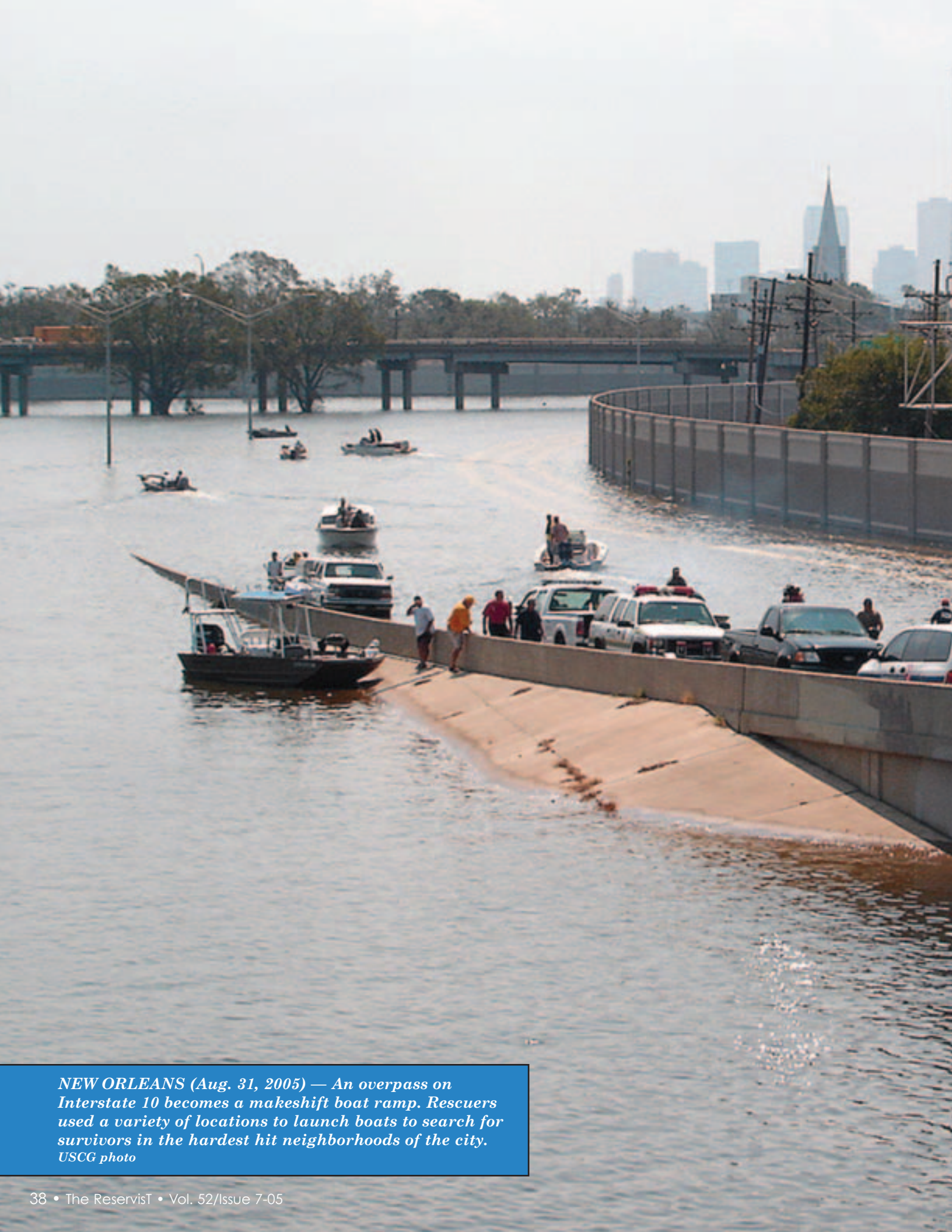
Members of PSU 309 patrolled the waters of the Pearl River, Bay St. Louis and the Back Bay of Biloxi looking for those in need of assistance. In the Back Bay area, they handed out MREs and water to over 200 stranded Vietnamese shrimp fisherman. Several of the boats within this fleet had sunk with loss of life during the height of the storm. Many PSU 309 personnel were moved by the devastation and suffering they saw and volunteered to hand out supplies and MREs during their off-duty hours. Over 50,000 pounds of supplies were handed out during relief efforts. The crew also formed several work parties and assisted local Coast Guardsmen whose houses had been damaged by the storm's wrath. They ripped out water-damaged drywall and insulation and hauled it away. They also assisted in locating personal effects strewn about by the hurricane.

Though PSU 309 logged over 400 patrols and over 1,000 hours of underway time in the four weeks in Gulfport, many of the crew felt their most important contributions were assisting those affected by the hurricane. They would not soon forget handing out food to the stranded fisherman or helping to clean out another Coastie's damaged house or, upon learning that Station Gulfport had lost its canine mascot in the hurricane, they donated a new mascot, a mixed breed dog with a hurricane induced broken leg named "Charlie." These were the memories that the crew would be taking back home to Ohio. 





MOBILE, Ala. (Sept. 3, 2005) — A look at some of the damage sustained by Sector Mobile. All of the shore units within Sector Mobile suffered some damage as result of Katrina.
USCG photo



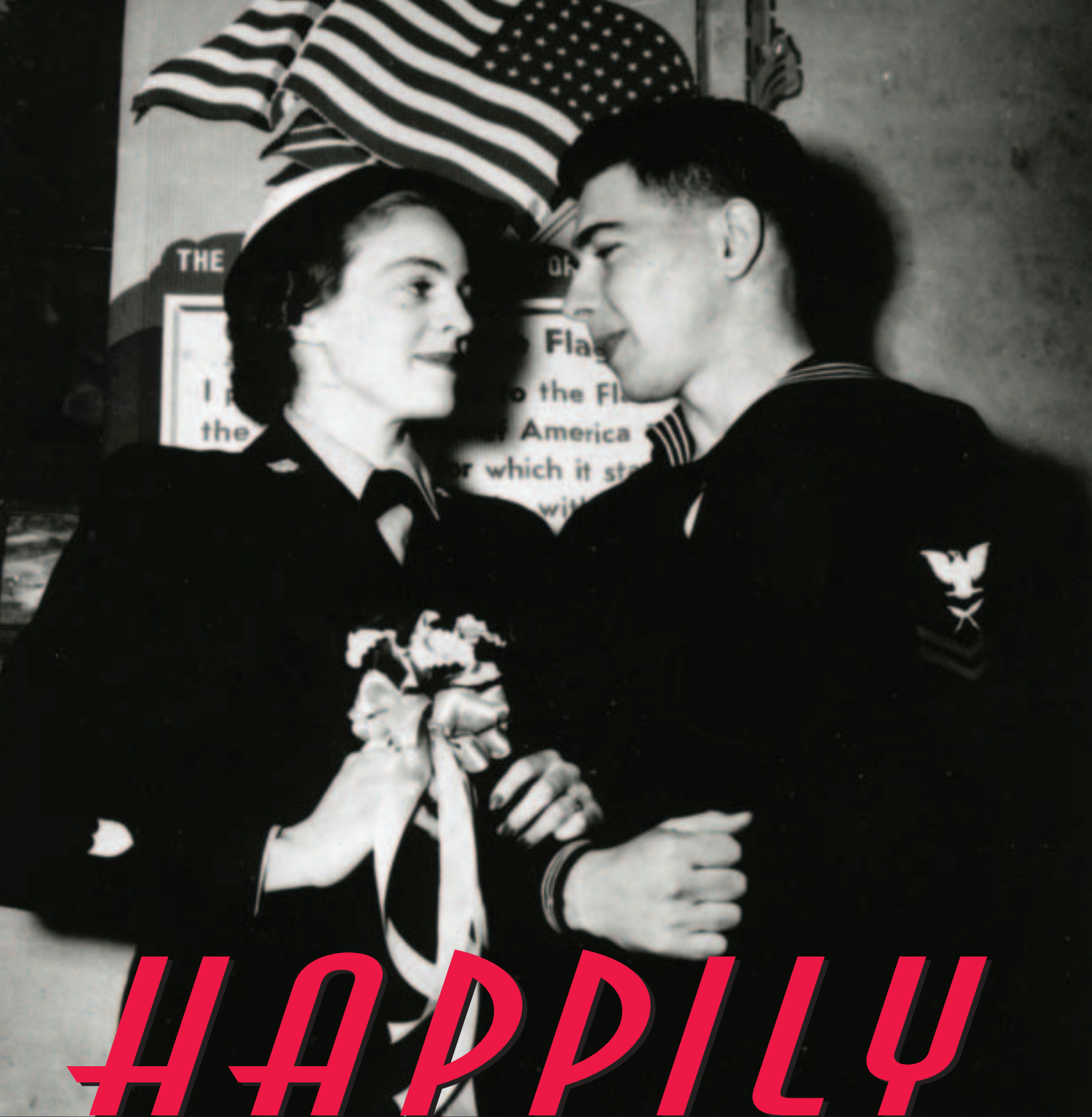
NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 31, 2005) — An overpass on Interstate 10 becomes a makeshift boat ramp. Rescuers used a variety of locations to launch boats to search for survivors in the hardest hit neighborhoods of the city. USCG photo





NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 31, 2005) — VADM Thad Allen poses with a cadre of Coast Guard men and women during a visit to Coast Guard Hurricane Task Force One. Allen was named Director, Hurricane Katrina Operations Sept. 9. USCG photo





HAPPILY EVER AFTER

FIRST "COAST GUARD COUPLE" REVISITS CGHQ

BY LTJG NEAL HINKEL, USCG

Sometimes life comes full circle. It did so recently for Robert and Donna Smith who met in February 1943 while assigned to the Military Morale Division at Coast Guard Headquarters.

The story began in June 1940, when Robert Neil Smith enlisted in the Coast Guard. His first assignment after basic training was USS Spencer, where he happened to be a shipmate of Douglas Munro. Smith says he doesn't remember Munro very well — he was a signalman and since Smith was an apprentice Seaman, their paths didn't cross much. After approximately seven months aboard Spencer, he was transferred to Yeoman School at the Coast Guard Academy, followed by duty assignments at Coast Guard 3rd Naval District, USS Comanche, USS Allegheny, and finally Coast Guard Headquarters.

Enter Donna Ione Miller, who joined the U.S. Navy WAVES in 1942 and attended both basic and yeoman training at Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater, Okla. A Coast Guard officer visiting the campus asked if some of the graduates would like to transfer over to the SPARs (Coast Guard Women's Reserve) as they had just been founded Nov. 23, 1942. She decided it would be something special and, along with some of her classmates, became one of the first Coast Guard SPARs.

Miller was required to report directly to the Military Morale Division at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She was told that when she arrived at the train depot, she was to hail a taxi and head directly for Coast Guard Headquarters. The taxi driver had no idea where Headquarters was located. However, he was able to do the next best thing ... and drove her directly to a moored Coast Guard cutter on the Potomac River. To this day, Miller can still see the crew's faces as they looked up to see a taxi dropping off a uniformed woman at their cutter, along with her luggage. After some explanation, a crewmember was assigned to drive her to Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ). As one of the first

SPARs at CGHQ, Miller was responsible for logging classified information transmitted from Headquarters.

Smith and Miller met in February 1943 while both were assigned to the Military Morale Division. They were engaged in March, and to the surprise of their coworkers, married April 21, 1943. Approximately 100 friends and coworkers attended their wedding. A surprise wedding reception was arranged for the couple at Washington's Shoreham Hotel. There was quite a bit of excitement surrounding this marriage since it marked a milestone for the Coast Guard as the Service's first

marriage. Their wedding photo was used in Coast Guard recruiting efforts and could be seen in the window of local recruiting offices. Later in 1943, YN3 Smith (Miller) became pregnant with their first daughter and, as required by policy, submitted her resignation from the SPARs, receiving an honorable discharge.

In June 1943, newly married YN1 Smith entered Officer Candidate School at the Coast Guard Academy. He was assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard 3rd Naval District in New York, USS Salvia in Duluth, Minn., and then the U.S. Army Y9, a 180-foot coastal tanker/oiler in New Guinea. In August 1945, LTJG Smith reported to USS LST-769, a 328-foot Tank Landing Ship as their gunnery officer. Following the end of WWII, LST-769 performed occupation duty in the Far East until late November 1945. He received an honorable discharge from the Coast



Photo by CWO Edward J. Kruska, USCGR

Robert and Donna Smith in front of the Douglas Munro Memorial at Coast Guard Headquarters.

Guard in June 1946.

On Sept. 27, 2005, 62 years after first meeting and serving together at Headquarters, Robert and Donna returned to Headquarters. However, this time, they did so as honored guests for the rededication of the Douglas Munro display, now located just inside the main entrance. The Smiths, who reside in Mount Vernon, Wash., have always been proud to say they served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. Some predicted their marriage would never last, but 62 years later, they are still together and going strong. 📷



In Brief

• **CG MUTUAL ASSISTANCE KATRINA FUND** — In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, there has been an outpouring of compassion for those Coast Guard members and families hard hit by this disaster in the impact area. Many have expressed a desire to help.

In response, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) has established an account to receive contributions designated for that specific purpose. Contributions marked "Katrina" will be earmarked and tracked to ensure they are used first and foremost to meet the needs of Coast Guard members and families associated with Hurricane Katrina in accordance with normal CGMA policies and procedures. In the event there are funds left over after meeting needs associated with Hurricane Katrina, they will be placed in CGMA's general account to assist members of the Coast Guard family in times of financial need.

Tax deductible contributions should be made out to "Coast Guard Mutual Assistance or CGMA" by check, money order or with a credit card marked in the memo area or noted for "Katrina." Contribution forms are available on the CGMA Web site: www.cgmahq.org. Click on "Contributing to CGMA."

Checks, payable to "CGMA" may be sent to the following address:

**Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 610
Arlington, VA 22203-1804**

Secure credit card contributions may be made online through the CGMA Web site. Click on "Contributing to CGMA," then on "Credit Card."

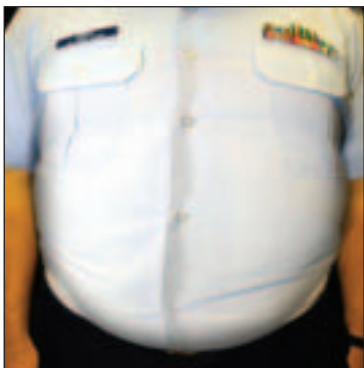
If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Tom Omri at Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (202)493-6622.

• ROA ANNOUNCES "SMART"

CAMPAIGN — The Sponsor a Mobilized Reservist Today (SMRT) program asks current ROA members to sponsor a one-year membership for a mobilized Reserve officer. It is a way for current ROA members to reach out to non-members and invite them to the Association. To learn more about SMRT, visit ROA's website (www.roa.org), call ROA headquarters (800) 809-9448, ext. 727, or e-mail: mboone@roa.org.



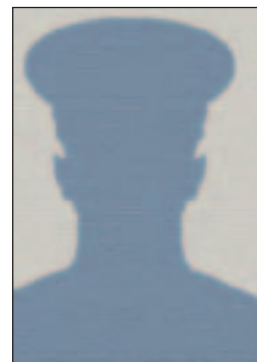
• **WEIGHT/PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS** — During 2004, the Coast Guard instituted a Fitness program. So, how is the Coast Guard doing? ALCOAST 472/05 (posted on the Reserve Webpage <http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/>) outlines USCG member compliance with semi-annual weight/physical standards. Based on available Direct Access information, the overall health of the active duty, SELRES and USPHS workforce during the April



2005 weigh-in period is as follows: Of 42,569 members weighed, 1,095, or 2.5 percent, were overweight. Total active duty overweight was 877 (2.1 percent) while total Selected Reserve overweight was 218 (2.8 percent). During FY05, 54 members were discharged for weight compared with 35 in FY04. Many members failed to report to their unit in April 2005 to be weighed. All members, including reservists, are reminded of their responsibility to weigh in every October and April unless previously granted an abeyance period by CG-1221. See ALCOAST 472/05 or contact LCDR Patti Mitrowski, 202-267-1385; or LCDR Carol Stundtner, 202-267-1611.

• **SEMPER PRODUCTS** — Semper Products make T-shirts, caps and patches for USCG units and Coast Guard special events. They also carry Coast Guard toys. Contact Mr. Robert McMillan, 912-429-2141; www.SemperProducts.com. *Neither the U.S. Coast Guard nor The Reservist endorses these items; it is published as a service to our readers.*

• **FACES OF THE FALLEN** — There is still time to visit the compelling exhibit of more than 1,300 individual portraits honoring America's service men and women who lost their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq. Talented artists from across the country have donated these works, on display to the public through Nov. 11, 2005 at the Women In Military Service For America Memorial, located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. For additional info, please email info@facesofthefallen.org.



• **SALUTE: THE WWII TRIBUTE ALBUM** — This new CD was released in late June 2005 and features LeAnn Rimes, Kimberly Locke, Crystal Gayle, and Lee Greenwood as they sing popular songs from the WWII era. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the American Experience Foundation to benefit America's veterans. Mike Curb and Rod McBrien are Executive Producers of this Curb Records production. McBrien served in the USCG in the 1960s, aboard CGC SPENCER and with the CG Band. Check local stores or go online to purchase this patriotic CD. To e-mail McBrien, send to: rodmcbrrien@aol.com. *Neither the U.S. Coast Guard nor The Reservist endorses this item; it is published as a service to our readers.*



Get the Facts...

Learn More About the SGLI Increase to \$400,000

How Much Did SGLI Increase By?

The maximum level of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000, on Sept. 1, 2005.

Who Was Affected?

Anyone in service on Sept. 1, 2005, had their coverage increased to \$400,000, even if they previously declined or elected lesser coverage. If they still desire no coverage or less than the maximum, they will have to go to their Servicing Personnel Office and re-elect no coverage or less than the maximum (SGLV form 8286).

What Coverage Amounts Are Available?

Servicemembers can only elect coverage in increments of \$50,000. Previously, members could elect coverage in increments of \$10,000. Therefore, the only SGLI coverage amounts available are:

- \$50,000
- \$100,000
- \$150,000
- \$200,000
- \$250,000
- \$300,000
- \$350,000
- \$400,000

How Will The Increase Affect VGLI members?

Members in the VGLI Program before Sept. 1, 2005

will not be affected. However, all separating servicemembers covered under SGLI on or after Sept. 1, 2005 in an amount greater than \$250,000 will be able to convert to VGLI at the new higher level. For example:

SGLI Coverage at Separation	Max VGLI Coverage
\$400,000	\$400,000
\$350,000	\$350,000

How Much Will The Additional Coverage Cost?

The premium rates for SGLI coverage will remain the same. Currently, the rate is 6.5 cents per \$1,000 per month, or \$16.25 per month for \$250,000. Therefore, if a member elects the new maximum coverage of \$400,000, they will pay \$26.00 per month.

Will The Increase Be Retroactive To A Specific Date?

Yes. The Department of Defense will be paying a death gratuity of \$150,000 for deaths that occurred in specified combat conditions on or after Oct. 7, 2001 but before Sept. 1, 2005 or were incurred in the theater of operations of *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*. This gratuity is in addition to the existing Department of Defense death gratuity that is increasing from \$12,420 to \$100,000 for the same group of servicemembers.

Where Should I Go For More Information?

You are:	Type of Information You Need	Who To Contact
Casualty Officer	Claims Assistance	Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473
Casualty Officer	Retroactive Death Gratuities	Your Branch of Service
Military Service Coordinator	General Program Information/Application & Claim Assistance	VA Insurance Service Staff Greg Hosmer: 1-215-842-2000 x 4280 Kristan Hoffman: 1-215-842-2000 x 3094
Other Program Coordinator (e.g. OIF/OEF Coordinator)	General Program Information/Application & Claim Assistance	VA Insurance Service Staff Greg Hosmer: 1-215-842-2000 x 4280 Kristan Hoffman: 1-215-842-2000 x 3094
VA Regional Office Staff	General Program Information/Application & Claim Assistance	VA Insurance Service Staff Greg Hosmer: 1-215-842-2000 x 4280 Kristan Hoffman: 1-215-842-2000 x 3094
Servicemember/Separating Servicemember	Payroll/Personnel Questions	Unit Commander
Servicemember/Separating Servicemembers	General Program Information/Application & Claim Assistance	Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473

For more information, contact the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, 1-800-419-1473 or check the VA website at: www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/SGLI/SGLI.htm

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2005

• **USCG FLAGS ACROSS AMERICA DAY** — Seventh annual, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., Coast Guard Hill, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. If you can't attend, why not plan an event in your local area to honor USCG veterans? Contact USCG Flags Across America, 202-267-6235; mallen@sgt-inc.com; Web: <http://uscgcpoa-dc.org/faa/>



• **CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE** — 14th annual Clean Gulf Conference on oil and haz-mat prevention, response and technology will be held Nov. 9-10, Moody Gardens Convention Center, Galveston, Texas. See ALCOAST 469/05 for more info or contact SCPO Todd Meekins, tmeekins@nsfcc.uscg.mil; 252-331-6000, ext. 3029.

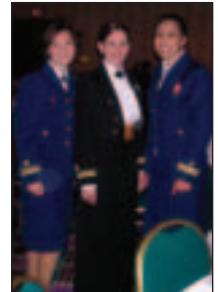
• **NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE** — Nov. 11, 10 a.m., the New York City Veterans Day Parade, "The Nation's Parade," honors veterans "from the Greatest Generation to the Latest Generation" and all areas in between. This year, the parade and associated events on Nov. 11-12 will give special recognition to the World War II generation on the 60th anniversary of the end of the war. For more info, please contact the Nation's Parade office, 212-693-0157 or <http://www.nationsdayparade.org/index.html>.



DECEMBER 2005

• **PEARL HARBOR DAY** — Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11:45 a.m. at CGC Taney in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Contact Mr. Paul Cora, 802 S. Caroline Street, Baltimore, MD 21231; 410-396-3453; paul@baltomaritimemuseum.org; Web: www.baltomaritimemuseum.org

• **ANNUAL COAST GUARD BALL** — Friday, Dec. 9, 5:50 p.m. (date postponed from Oct. 8 due to Hurricane Katrina), Hyatt Regency Hotel, Arlington, Va. Sponsored by Washington Coast Guard Association. This year's theme is "Honoring Our WWII Veterans." For information, please contact ENS Nuria Agnew, 202-267-1211 or nagnew@comdt.uscg.mil. Contact LT Brian Robinson for CG WWII Veteran info at 202-267-0055 or BWRobinson@comdt.uscg.mil. Website: www.uscgwcga.org.



FEBRUARY 2006

• **ROA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE** — Feb. 5-8, 2006, Hilton Hotel and Towers, Washington, D.C. For info, contact ROA, One Constitution Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002; 202-479-2200; Web: www.roa.org

• **COAST GUARD RESERVE BIRTHDAY** — It's number 65 for the Coast Guard Reserve on Sunday, Feb. 19!

JUNE 2006

• **USCG INNOVATION EXPO** — Week of June 26, 2006, in Tampa, Fla. Start making plans now to exhibit, attend or use as your 2006 conference gathering place. For info, contact Mr. Fred Hooghouse, 202-267-2130, fhooghouse@comdt.uscg.mil

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

CAPT Richard E. Tinsman

MKC James Elsenburg (from U.S. Army), MSU Galveston

Coast Guard Commendation Medal

MKC James Elsenburg, MSU Galveston

Joint Service Achievement Medal

CWO4 Thomas P. McLaughlin

Coast Guard Achievement Medal

CDR Mari Lloyd (w/"O" Device), MSO Anchorage
LT Tom Gwilliam, Commandant (CG-13)
LT Kevin Tyrrell, PACAREA Intelligence
LTJG Greg Peck, Commandant (CG-13)
S/A Nicholas A. Destefano, CGIS RAO NY
CWO2 Michael Spicer, PACAREA Intelligence

Commandant's Letter of Commendation

LT Christa Jackson, Commandant (CG-13)
LT Ward Fisher, Commandant (CG-13)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

CWO4 Thomas P. McLaughlin (30 years)



Photo courtesy SCPO Ed Lewis, USCG

CPO Bill Geary, right, presents a shadow box representing all the service academies and some of their insignia to SCPO Kyle Takakjian, USCGR, left, at a CG Academy ceremony in New London, Conn. June 26. Takakjian, a reservist, was given the box and earned a Meritorious Service Medal for his tour of duty as one of the first Chiefs in the Barracks at the Coast Guard Academy.

Advancements

Effective Sept. 1, 2005

From Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 09-05, ALCGPERSCOM 078/05 (R 231245Z AUG 05). Last names can sometimes be cutoff if they exceed eight characters. Questions should be directed to YNC Jeff Pilkington, jpilkington@hrsic.uscg.mil or 785-339-3410.

BOATSWAIN'S MATE(BM)

BM1 S K SPRINGER

FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST(FS)

FS2 T K MELLOTT

MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN(MST)

MST1 G M VINCENT

MST2 C R LAMB

PORT SECURITY SPECIALIST(PS)

PSCM R L GUNDERSON

PSC K GALLAGHER

STOREKEEPER(SK)

SK2 W D BOSSA

SK2 J S AQUINO

SK2 J P DERUDDER

SK2 W H ALVAREZ

SK2 K M MATTHEWS

SK2 A P MARTINEZ

YEOMAN(YN)

YNC N B STOCK

YNC L D LASWELL



Photo courtesy BMCS Bob Milmo, USCG

Reservist MKC William Munch, right, receives his E-7 advancement certificate from BMCS Bob Milmo, Officer in Charge, Station Jones Beach, N.Y. at a ceremony Aug 20. Munch, who advanced to E-7 Aug. 1, has been assigned to Station Jones Beach since 1983 and resides in Blauvelt, N.Y.

Promotions



Photo by LTJG Greg Peck, USCGR

Eight-year-old Kyle Grzelak pins O-4 shoulder boards on his mother, Jennifer Grzelak, at a July 1 promotion ceremony at Coast Guard Headquarters. Grzelak is a Reserve Program Administrator serving in the Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-1311).



Photo courtesy of LT Alma Certa

David Martin, center, is promoted to captain Aug. 20 at Sector Field Office Moriches, N.Y. Putting on the O-6 shoulder boards are CDR John Healey, left, and YN1 Richard Maher, USCGR. Martin is Senior Reserve Officer at SFO Moriches.

Retirements

RET-1 (Retired With Pay)

AUGUST 2005

CAPT Franklin D. Hoffman, Jr.
CAPT John D. Potter
CAPT Neil W. Wiley
CDR George M. Devanney
CDR Thomas J. Johnson
CDR James A. Medeiros
CDR Eugene H. Ryan
CDR Jacqueline V. Wyland
LCDR Ronald K. Baird
LCDR Bruce T. Burton
LCDR Kenneth D. Ekelund
LCDR Patricia L. Gilmore
LCDR Charles A. Spitz
LCDR William G. Wehmeyer
LT Eero H. Ranta
LT Robert E. Schellhase
LTJG Robert C. Russell
IVCM Larry L. Michalscheck
BMCS Terry P. Cleary
ETC Gary R. Redman
OSC Betty L. Altnether
PSC Terry L. Smith
BM1 Rosario R. Juarez
MK1 John R. Hall
PS1 John P. Britt
PS1 Carolyn C. Leone
PS1 John R. Schlank
QM1 James A. Singer
SK1 Robert H. Pawlowski
BM2 Robert J. Locke
GM2 Lawrence M. Flanagan
MK2 Gerpoge T. Beyer
PO2 Keith W. Miles, Jr.
PS2 Fernando R. Urgelles
BM3 Richard L. Boisvert
FS3 Obie L. Warren
PO3 John F. Costello

SEPTEMBER 2005

CAPT Mark E. Libby
CAPT Richard T. Walde
CDR Roger S. Streeter

CDR Lewis K. Walton
LCDR Dennis L. Crosby
LCDR Dennis L. Dyer
LCDR James D. Henry
LT John T. Aslakson
LT Francis W. Shields
CWO3 Richard E. Shafer
CWO2 Robert L. Hill
OSCM Thomas E. Wiltsey
PSCM Louis E. Hoskins
BMCS David P. Richards
FSCS Norman A. Krumpke
BMC Michael G. Berry
BMC Carl M. Buick
BMC Michael T. Uland
EMC Richard S. Sipos
MK1 David F. Wilton
PO1 Roland E. Chevrefils
FS2 Henry G. Marin
OS2 Julius G. Lusk
SK2 Hector R. Delmanzano
DC3 Aryerobert Mandel

RET-2 (Retired Awaiting Pay)

AUGUST 2005

CAPT Sidney J. Duck, LANTAREA
CDR Timothy A. Aines, CGHQ
CDR Charles A. Amen, D8
CDR Roy F. Williams, LANTAREA
LCDR Karl F. Schuler, D7
CWO4 Eugene W. Sellers, TC Cape May
CWO4 Stanley L. Shields, D17
CWO4 Jack E. Wall, D9
CWO3 Steven J. Rupnow, D11
IVCM William M. Furness, CGPC
MKCS Kenneth B. Fletcher, CGPC
OSC James B. Brackett, D8
OSC Daniel L. Facemire, CGPC
PSC Michael P. Haakensen, D13
SKC Bernard W. Steele, CGPC
YNC Nancy M. Sommer, CGPC
AMT1 Larry J. Pressnell, D5
BM1 David T. Barrett, D14
BM1 James S. Gormley, D5

MK1 Patrick J. Paparella, CGPC
MK1 Aaron L. Smith, PACAREA
PS1 William T. Sandeen, PACAREA
SK1 Gloria A. Hile, CGPC
YN1 Arlene L. Calhoun, MLCPC
BM2 Joseph E. Ladouceur, CGPC
BM2 James L. Lambert, CGPC
EM2 Alfred J. Zelenka, D1
ET2 Samuel Rodriguez, MLCLANT
PS2 Mark H. Trent, CGPC

SEPTEMBER 2005

CAPT Robert W. Grabb, MLCLANT
LCDR Olen F. Roberts, Jr., D5
CWO4 Patrick M. Moore, MLCLANT
CWO3 John J. Innaimo, MLCLANT
CWO2 William Halusek, Jr., D7
BMC Roderick C. Cushing, D8
MKC Timothy J. Clark, D9
MKC Steve F. Dameron, ELC Baltimore
MSTC Cheryl A. Stewart, D8
MSTC Yancey W. Woodward, D7
YNC Diane M. Meyer, MLCPC
BM1 Pamela A. Ayers, CGPC
DC1 Daniel E. Miller, LANTAREA
EM1 Richard A. Coffman, CGPC
ET1 Kevin E. Roake, Gulf Strike Team
IV1 James M. Kelly, D7
MK1 Alan M. Robertson, CGPC
MST1 Robert N. Loman, D5
MST1 Paul E. Rodeheaver, D7
PS1 William H. Simpson, CGPC
YN1 Jack M. Kaufman, MLCPC
YN1 Victoria J. Sandoval, CGHQ
BM2 Lawrence T. Cole, CGPC
BM2 James A. Driskell, D1
BM2 Donald J. Gregory, CGPC
BM2 Glenn W. Willard, CGPC
FS2 Sterling E. Johnson, CGPC
MST2 Steven S. Raulerson, D7
SK2 Allen W. Murphy, CGPC
BM3 Robert M. Jacob, CGPC
FS3 Francis C. Zevnick, Jr., D9
OS3 Michael L. Madalon, Jr., D9

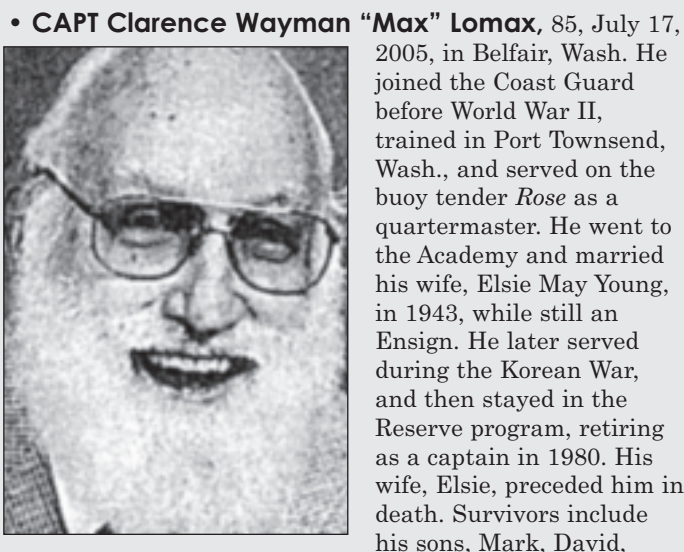
Source: Ms. Lynn Couch,
Personnel Service Center (RAS)



CWO4 Thomas P. McLaughlin, left, and wife, Pat, are piped ashore at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony at Atlantic Strike Team, Fort Dix, N.J. May 7. McLaughlin, of Hatboro, Pa., served over 37 years in the Coast Guard and Reserve.



PSCS Ciro Sinagra, second from left, holds a shadowbox presented to him at his retirement ceremony Aug. 19 at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn. Left to right: MCPO Jeff Creighton, Sinagra, his wife Silke Psula, and CAPT Dan Croce. Sinagra served 22 years.



• CAPT Clarence Wayman "Max" Lomax, 85, July 17, 2005, in Belfair, Wash. He joined the Coast Guard before World War II, trained in Port Townsend, Wash., and served on the buoy tender *Rose* as a quartermaster. He went to the Academy and married his wife, Elsie May Young, in 1943, while still an Ensign. He later served during the Korean War, and then stayed in the Reserve program, retiring as a captain in 1980. His wife, Elsie, preceded him in death. Survivors include his sons, Mark, David, Robert and Stephen; seven grandchildren, and a sister, Eileen. A memorial service was held July 30, 2005, at Belfair Community Baptist Church, Belfair, Wash. Memorial donations may be made to the church.

• CDR George R. Allen, Jr., USCGR(Ret.), Sept. 1, 2005, in Hot Springs Village, Ark. Survived by his spouse, Elizabeth L. Allen. Interment Dallas, Texas.

• CDR William A. Lordge, USCGR (Ret.), June 30, 2005, in San Jose, Calif.

• CDR Robert J. Papp, USCGR (Ret.), 73, Sept. 26, 2005, in Chesapeake, Va. A native of Norwich, Conn., he served in the U.S.

Marine Corps from 1950-57. In 1957, he joined the Connecticut State Police, was promoted to detective in 1961, and later became an inspector for the New London State Attorney's Office. In 1973, he was commissioned in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and commanded the Captain of the Port New York reserve unit. He retired



from the CGR as a Commander in 1990. In 1978, he passed the Connecticut State Bar and became an attorney with the firm Rakosky, Smith, Miller and Papp. He was also a past commander of the U.S. Power Squadron, past president of the Franklin, Conn. Lions Club, a board member of the Franklin Planning and Zoning Board, Connecticut State Police Alumni Association, the Reserve Officers Association and the Military Officers Association of America. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; a daughter, Carol Maher (George) of Salem, Conn.; two sons, RDML Robert J. Papp,

Jr. (Linda) of Lakewood, Ohio, and R. Andersen "Andy" Papp (Tracy) of Chesapeake, Va.; eight granddaughters and two grandsons. He was preceded in death by his parents, Zoltan and Doris Waters Papp, and a son, Brian. A memorial service will be held Friday, Oct 28, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Chapel, New London, Conn. Private interment at Able Hill Cemetery, Chilmark, Mass. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to: Cancer Care Foundation of Tidewater, 6160 Kempsville Circle, Suite 325A, Norfolk, VA 23502.

• CWO3 (MED) Lester G. Britton, USCGR(Ret.), July 31, 2005, in Santa Cruz, Calif. Survived by his spouse, Julie Ann Britton. Interment National Cemetery in Gustine, Calif.

• CWO2 Ralph J. Mendel, USCGR(Ret.), Aug. 23, 2005, in St. Louis, Mo. Survived by his spouse, Joann Mendel. Interment Tamaroa, Ill.

• MKC Ralph H. Sylvester, Jr., USCGR(Ret.), 60, Aug. 1, 2005, of Waterford, Wis. Born Feb. 13, 1945, he served 26 proud years with the U. S. Coast Guard and was a veteran of Desert Storm. He also traveled the world and was employed by Harnischfeger and Jacobsen/Textron, and then by Putzmeister America at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Kathleen (Daniel) Sylvester-Warren; children Dean, Sean, Ryan; grandfather of his "Little Princess" Kathryn Mary Sylvester and sweet Erin Widenski. Services were held Aug. 6 at St. Florian Catholic Church, West Milwaukee, Wis. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery, Milwaukee.

• TTC George M. Stephens, Jr., Aug. 10, 2005, in Wilmington, N.C. He is survived by his spouse, Josephine Stephens. Interment Southport, N.C.

• FI1 Frank O. Tracy, USCGR (Ret.), Aug. 25, 2005. Survived by his son, Richard Bodell.

• EM2 Steven L. Gnagy, USCGR, Sept. 7, 2005, in Palmdale, Calif. Survived by his father, Merle Gnagy; sisters Linda, Adriane, and Denise.





The United Services Automobile Association (USAA) sponsors four scholarships each year, worth \$1,125 each, to enlisted Coast Guard Reservists or their dependents. The 30 submissions this year included one-page essays. Members were required to write "What my Coast Guard Reserve participation means to me," and dependents were required to write about "What my parent's participation in the Coast Guard Reserve means to me." Here are the four winners for the 2005-06 academic year, listed in alphabetical order by last name, with a short excerpt from each essay.

- **PS1 Kevin Nail**, of MSO Houston-Galveston, is attending Texas A&M University, Texas, and majoring in biomedical science. In his essay, he wrote: "My participation in the Coast Guard means two things to me — service and an opportunity for personal growth. If I had never enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve and just rolled with the tides of life, I would have missed out on chances that I have had to serve my country and all of the growing up I have done along the way. The Coast Guard has helped me to mature as a person and make better life decisions. I think the sense of responsibility and purpose that is required in the everyday life of a Coastie is something I have been able to implement into my day-to-day life. Because of the Coast Guard, I now have a stronger work ethic; I take pride in my work, and have a sense of overall satisfaction in everything I do. Without the Coast Guard, I might have never been able to acquire these important qualities."

- **IT3 Matthew Pollio**, serving at Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center, Virginia Beach, Va., and attending Ferrum College, Va. He wrote: "The Coast Guard Reserve has always been a large part of my life. The Reserve has been like a family to me — I watched my mother go off to drill every few weeks, witnessing first hand the personal sacrifices reservists make — the time spent away from family, nerves on edge waiting to be called to active duty, the emergency callouts for floods or hurricanes. Even as a child, I felt proud to be part of it and imagined what it might be like to be in the Reserve myself. At 17, I took that oath, and have been lucky to have proudly served alongside many outstanding "Coasties," including my mother, these past few years. ... I am proud when my friends ask about the Coast Guard and I can tell them that I serve in the world's best military service. ... I am proud to be in the oldest sea service and proud of my family tradition of service in the Coast Guard."

- **BM1 Paul Simpson**, of Commandant (CG-1311), is attending University of Maryland University College, Md. Simpson wrote: "While considering what it means to be a member of the Coast Guard Reserve, I couldn't help but remember the spring of 1999. It was my sophomore year in college, and I was sitting in a required English survey class with 150 other students. The professor, a World War II veteran who had been wounded during the invasion of Normandy, posed a question to the class: 'If America came under attack today, would you enlist in the military to defend her?' I was the only class member with a

raised hand. As a child, I was taught to put your money where your mouth is, so the following week, I visited the recruiting offices of each of the armed services. ... I liked the Coast Guard and its port security units the most, and enlisted in June of 1999. I was very proud of my service but didn't realize what it really meant until Sept. 11, 2001, when the United States was attacked. I was immediately recalled and had the opportunity to serve my country during two separate deployments to Southwest Asia, including a tour in Iraq. ... Being a reservist requires unwavering patriotism, preparedness and above all, professionalism. Today, I realize that as with most decisions, the decision I made that spring day will stick with me for the rest of my life, and I will always cherish the fact that I took the opportunity to serve my country as a citizen-sailor."

- **Mr. Javier Zapata** is the son of CPO Victor Berrios, ISC Miami, and attending Brown University, R.I. Zapata wrote: "My father has undoubtedly played a tremendous role in guiding me from my fatherless younger years to the defining moments of teenage adolescence. While all of his work cannot be directly attributed to the USCGR alone, the influence from his nearly two decades of instruction has clearly shaped the scope of my existence. There is never a dull night at the dinner table as my father shares his stories of success and triumphs he and his fellow members have experienced. The images I remember from my early youth, in belief that my dad, donning his navy blue garrison cap and assorted ribbons on his work shirt, was going to help save the world that day (when it was just an ordinary drill), will never be erased from my memory. As a reservist, my dad may never stop a drug cartel from fulfilling its objective or even interdict illegal immigrants at sea, but I know for sure that when called upon, he will definitely always be ready — and now I will be, too."

Winners were announced via ALCOAST 421/05. Thank you to all who submitted entries and to USAA for continued support of this initiative. Eligible parties are encouraged to participate in next year's contest.



A Brother's Keeper

Cain and I are different. The Cain I am referring to is the Cain found in Genesis 4 where God asks Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain replies, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Apparently, Cain did not see himself as his brother's keeper. I do. In fact, I see that as being one of the most important tasks we have while on this earth. The fact that we wear a Coast Guard uniform says that we are our brother's keepers. The men and women of our Coast Guard put that on display every day somewhere around the world. Our response to Hurricane Katrina has shown over and over that our men and women can and do rise to the task anywhere for whatever is needed. Video clip after video clip on national news has shown victims of the hurricane being lifted to safety by the Coast Guard.

We, as the United States Coast Guard, have always had a legacy of putting ourselves in harm's way for the sake of being our brother's keeper. Sometimes, the risks that our men and women are faced with do not receive the national exposure that has recently been received as a result of the hurricane rescue efforts. However, the gratefulness of one rescued in the dark hours of the night in some distant location, is the same. Even weeks after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, various government agencies were still struggling with what needed to be done. While I'm sure that many agencies knew what to do, the Coast Guard acted quickly and decisively.

It may not even be a rescue effort that shows that our men and women are their brother's keeper. Take for example, the seaman who struggles to make sure that a buoy is placed in the proper channel location. Maybe that's not a big item for most, but for the mariner, it is everything. The letters "MTSA" probably do not ring any bells for the average American, but it should since much of our nation's security and livelihood depend on it being enforced by our dedicated port security personnel.

Not only do our members respond to needs of our citizens, we respond to the needs of our fellow Coast Guard members as well. After Hurricane Katrina had taken its toll on so many of our member's homes, other members opened their homes up for them to have a place to live. When many of our

members working in the hurricane relief effort did not have enough uniforms, that need was met, too. Those responses and many more like it show we care about each other.

During the summer, I was on my way to Memphis for an all-hands meeting. As I was traveling west on Interstate 24, I noticed a van on the side of the road. As I passed, I noticed a man sitting down next to the van and it appeared that he was trying to change a flat tire. There's nothing unusual about that, and I did not give it a second thought until I passed the van and noticed a set of crutches out of my rear view mirror. Not known for helping strangers on the side of the road, except for calling local authorities, I usually don't stop. However, this time I told Gail, my wife, that I felt the need to try and help this man. I took the next exit and returned back to the van. When I got out of the car, I noticed that the man did not have any legs. I also noticed his wife only had one arm. Inside the van were two small children. As I talked to the man, I learned that his car jack had broken while he was changing the tire. I went to my car and retrieved mine and soon afterwards, they were on their way again.

As I traveled on over to Memphis, I reflected on the fact that I had actually been a help to someone in need. I also reflected that I had somewhat put myself at risk for helping this total stranger, but then I thought about the many times and ways that our fellow Coast Guard members put themselves at risk for total strangers every day. Our people will most likely never see those who they helped again, but you can be sure that those rescued will always remember that Coast Guard member who came to their aid in a green flight suit or a blue uniform.

However, being a brother's keeper does not always have to be of a physical nature. For the young Coast Guard member just coming from basic training, it is making that member feel welcome at his or her first assignment. It is helping that member make the right decisions that could affect their Coast Guard career or even the rest of their life. It should be our desire to make that newest member a brother's keeper as well.

Thank you for being a brother's keeper. We all have to be one.



**"We,
as the
United States
Coast Guard,
have always
had a legacy
of putting
ourselves
in harm's
way for the
sake of being
our brother's
keeper."**

**By MCPO Gary W. Petty, USCGR
Reserve Command Master Chief, D8 Western Rivers Region
gpetty@cgstl.uscg.mil**



New Orleans' Saints

The Reservist Magazine would like to thank John Sherffius for use of this artwork.

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